



Small Group Discussion Guide: Week 1-Embrace the Discomfort

Introduction:

We live in a culture that is designed to make us more comfortable. We have A/C in our homes, cars, and even some golf carts. We pay for things that makes us comfortable like lattes, and “snuggies” (a blanket with sleeves). Commercials are aimed to make you comfortable with a specific product, airlines are making bigger seats, so you feel more comfortable on your flight, and hotels are designed to make you feel at home. Millions of dollars are spent each year on things that make us more comfortable.

We are in a new series called, *Uncomfortable*, which will help us embrace, understand, and see the beauty of being part of God’s people. As Christians, we should not long for a life of comfort, but we should feel an uncomfortable tension

by following Christ and becoming his disciples. Jesus did not call us to a life of comfort, but a life that is on mission for him.

We will explore what God is calling us to, and how following Christ will cost us something. Walking by the Spirit will call us into a deeper relationship with God, which should cause us to want to share Jesus with others. C.S Lewis says, *“If you want a religion that makes you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.”*

As we embark on this journey, my prayer for you as you lead your small group is that you ask God to do some radical things in your life and those in your small group.

Scripture for this week: Luke 14:25-34

[Read Luke 14:25-34](#)

Discussion Questions

Question 1: In verse 26, Jesus says, **“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father or mother, wife and children, and even his own life cannot be my disciple.**

- What is the meaning of this passage?
- Does Jesus actually want us to hate our family?

Matthew 10:35-37. ³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

- What is Jesus calling us too as a disciple?

(Leader Insight) Say: Jesus was well known because of the miracles he performed, and how he healed people. As a result, large crowds were following him who considered themselves disciples. Jesus was not the person who wanted large crowds, but instead he wanted true disciples who would follow him not because of what he did, but because of who he was, (the Christ). Jesus was calling people into a mission for his kingdom. He was laying out the cost of discipleship, and some of the results of following him. It was not supposed to be a life of comfort, but a life that might bring challenge or ridicule from those we love the most. Jesus knew that for some, they would have to choose their family or him. Jesus was saying that we must love him more than our families or even our-selves. (He did not come to make us hate our families. Jesus is saying that if we find our life in him, we might lose the life that we know.)

Question 2: In Luke 14, verses 28-33 Jesus uses 2 illustrations to help drive home his point.

- Why do you think he gives these examples?
- Discuss what Jesus is trying to get us to understand!
- Discuss what God may be calling you to that is “Uncomfortable”.

Question 3: In verse 33, Jesus goes a step farther and says, “those of your who do not give up everything they have cannot be my disciple”.

- What is the meaning of everything?
- Does God want us to be poor and live a life of neglect?
- Discuss: Is it wrong to have stuff or possessions.

(Leader Insight) Say: Jesus is not against us having things in this life. In fact, Jesus talked more on the subject of money than he did anything else in his teachings. However, if your stuff has become something you love more than Jesus, then by definition, it is Idolatry!!! Jesus said that we are to have no other gods before him, which could include our stuff or our families. A good thing that God has blessed can become idolatry for us if we allow that thing (family, money, career, possessions, etc.) to rule over our lives or we are unwilling to let it go for his name’s sake. Jesus is not against your family, and does not want you to have hatred towards each other, he is not against you having things, as long as it doesn’t take the place of him. Jesus was trying to show us the true cost of discipleship, and how following him might cost us all we have. He was trying to get us to understand that following him might make us UNCOMFORTABLE.

Question 4: In verse 34-36 Jesus uses salt as an example, what is he referring too?

- How are we like salt?
- Discuss what it means for us today in our culture!
- Why is meant by the phrase, “*he who has ears let him hear*”?

Next Steps

- 1. Share one small “next step” that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.**
- 2. Pray for God to reveal your idols.**
- 3. Where is God calling you to lose your life and become *Uncomfortable*?**
- 4. Write down 5 names of people you know who need Jesus Pray and for them this week.**

Pray & Dismiss